



THE LEADER

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May 23, 2003

Remembering

Base honors fallen heroes on Memorial Day

See Pages 12-13

Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

Inside: Marriages a little bit stronger

Weekend weather

Today 74/45 isol. T-storms
Saturday 70/48 showers
Sunday 73/48 partly cloudy
Monday 78/50 partly cloudy



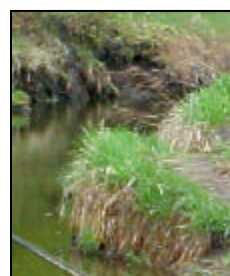
Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

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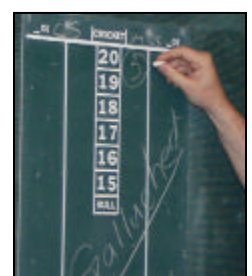
Enjoying the outdoors

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Chalk one up for MSS

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Warriors support area Memorial Day events

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

In terms of support, Memorial Day 2003 goes down as one of the busiest days for Warriors of the North.

Not only are base members heading out to 17 different communities in North Dakota and Minnesota to serve as guest speaker for community observances, dozens of base volunteers will go out to place flags in local cemeteries. Additionally, several base honor guard teams will participate in events in three cities.

The honor guard, which is going to Larimore in North Dakota and East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls in Minnesota Monday, traditionally performs flag-folding ceremonies or special request items by the communities. Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Clere, 319th Air Refueling Wing staff, said sending teams out for these events is crucial for one main reason.

“It’s important to remember all of those who served before us,” Clere said. “Veterans have served with honor and pride and we should not forget those who served with honor and pride to protect and serve our country.”

With the Speaker’s Bureau, seven cities are supported in Minnesota and there are 10 in North Dakota. Supporting Memorial Day as a guest speaker for the first time is 1st Lt. Kevin Campbell, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron. He said he has professional and personal reasons to participate.

“I think it’s important to support these events not only for community relations purposes, but more importantly we need to honor our veterans,” Campbell said. “My father was a World War II veteran and I almost feel obligated to just go out and do this. It’s my turn to give back to the community and if I can do it by representing my service – that’s even better.”

People from the base are encouraged to attend Memorial Day festivities. Following are the cities and

places base members are serving as guest speakers, with the honor guard, or are participating with Memorial Day preparations.

Minnesota

East Grand Forks – Col. Steve Wayne, 319th Air Refueling Wing vice commander, is the featured guest speaker Monday at 11 a.m. at East Grand Forks’ Resurrection Cemetery. Also joining Colonel Wayne will be a team from the base honor guard.

Crookston – First Lt. Kevin Campbell, 319th LRS, will speak Monday at 9 a.m. in Crookston.

Thief River Falls – Chief Master Sgt. Danny Holwerda, 319th ARW command chief, will speak Monday at 10:30 a.m. in Greenwood Cemetery in Thief River Falls. Also joining Chief Holwerda will be a team from the base honor guard.

Roseau – Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol, 319th ARW public affairs office, will speak Monday at 10 a.m. at Roseau High School.

McIntosh – Master Sgt. Michael Martin, 319th ARW inspector general office, will speak at the McIntosh VFW Club Monday at 10:30 a.m.

Oslo – First Lt. Matthew Smiley, 319th Maintenance Squadron, will speak at the Oslo American Legion Monday at 10 a.m.

Plummer – First Lt. Brian Powers, 319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight, will speak at the Plummer City Park Monday at 10 a.m.

North Dakota

Grand Forks – Master Sgt. Tom Tezel, 319th Medical Group first sergeant and post commander for Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1874, will serve as the guest speaker during the Grand Forks observance 11 a.m. Monday in the Grand Forks Sunnywood Memorial Gardens cemetery.

Thompson – Master Sgt. Gary Cleland, 319th Air Refueling Wing military equal opportunity office, will

be the guest speaker for the Thompson observance Monday at 11 a.m. in Thompson High School.

Walhalla – Tech. Sgt. Scott Davis, 319th Air Refueling Wing public affairs office, will speak at the Walhalla Legion Hall Monday at 11 a.m.

Forest River – Airman 1st Class Anne Clark, 319th Maintenance Squadron, will be the guest speaker who visits four different cemeteries Monday starting at 8:15 a.m. in Forest River, Ardoch, Inkster and Johnstown.

Park River – Staff Sgt. Richele Aumiller, 319th Mission Support Squadron Airman Leadership School, will speak Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Park River City Hall.

Pembina – Tech. Sgt. Gabriel Swann, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron, speaks at the Pembina observance May 26. A place is still to be determined.

St. Thomas – Master Sgt. Joseph Allen, 319th Communications Squadron, will speak Monday at 11 a.m. in St. Thomas. The speaking engagement also includes visiting four cemeteries in the area in and around St. Thomas.

Lakota – Master Sgt. Troy Harris, 319th Medical Operations Squadron, will be the guest speaker for Lakota services Monday at 11 a.m. in the Lakota community center.

Drayton – Master Sgt. Richard Pasamante, 319th Air Refueling Wing inspector general office, will speak at the Drayton Senior Center Monday.

Larimore – Master Sgt. Richard Lien, Grand Forks AFB Fire Department, will speak in Larimore High School Monday at 10 a.m.

Monday morning, base volunteers will place flags on graves at Sunnywood Memorial Gardens in Grand Forks. Anyone else who wants to volunteer to place flags or participate in the effort should call John Hanson at 747-6434.



Action Line 747-4522

*The Action Line is your avenue
for information about events and
activities on and around the base.*

*For questions about current events
or rumors, please leave a message.*

100%

Mission
effectiveness
rating

6

DWI-free
Days



Col. Keye Sabol
319th Air Refueling Wing
commander

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♦**Advertisements** -- Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.

KC-135 receiving communications relay ability

By Maj. Rich Curry
507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) — The KC-135 Stratotanker will soon add a communications capability to its mission.

The installation of Roll-on Beyond Line of Sight Enhancement equipment, will help the flow of information on KC-135s while the aircraft conduct their primary mission of air refueling.

Used primarily as a “flying gas station,” the aircraft has served many roles throughout its more than 45 years of service. The aircraft, adapted from the Boeing commercial 707, has been used as a flying command post, an observation platform in compliance with the Open Skies Treaty, a zero-gravity simulator and a flying hospital.

“One of the goals of Air Force transformation is the better integration of military assets,” said Lt. Gen. John Baker, Air Mobility Command vice commander. “The smart tanker concept, which expands the air-refueling mission by including an additional role as a communications platform, is a perfect fit. We directed this transformation effort to increase the use and effectiveness of our tankers because they are always in the area of responsibility refueling fighters, bombers, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets in support of the joint forces commander. The AOR is a place where moving critical information is crucial to rapid targeting and enhancing the situational awareness of

our aircrews, regardless of military service.”

The ROBE system is about 2-by-4-foot and can be strapped to the floor like any other pallet. The system is the first in a family of scalable, modular, airborne relay terminals that will be used aboard tankers. The SMART system could have uses on other platforms, such as unmanned and ground- or sea-based vehicles, said officials at the Air Force Command and Control and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center at Langley AFB, Va.

Initially, ROBE will be a data relay allowing communication among network members. The objective is to connect battle directors in an air and space operations center with those en route to or in a theater of operations, officials said.

As seen in Operation Iraqi Freedom, information superiority is just as important as air superiority. Making rapid, accurate battle decisions requires up to the second information.

“If you’re doing any combat operations, guess who’s always going to be there? Our tankers,” Baker said. “If we put a ROBE system on our tankers knowing they will always be there, it will provide that over-the-horizon capability we need. The ROBE system will boost a signal to and from every friendly force in the theater, whether it’s a Joint STARS, AWACS, F-16, F-22 or even aircraft carriers, without using a satellite.”

The addition of the ROBE system will not change tanker operations, Baker said.



Courtesy photo

With the ROBE system, KC-135s won’t just refuel aircraft like the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, they will be able to boost a signal to and from them as well.

“All the discussion regarding ROBE is that it will have zero impact on our refueling missions,” the general said. “The ROBE capability is just something to be placed on the aircraft that will be transparent to the crew. Our refueling aircraft are too valuable to park out there (in orbit) and only use as relay platforms.”
(Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Seminar strengthens marriages

Compiled by staff reports

The strength of marriages and family life profoundly affects the stability of our community.

Even single members of the base community benefit when the marriages and families of their co-workers, supervisors, and commanders are healthy. Healthy marriages and families form the fabric of community life and a community's ability to help all its members.

That fact of life was very much the foundation of the Christian Military Marriage Seminar held at the Prairie Rose Chapel May 16 and 17. The seminar, attended by 80 participants, was sponsored by the Air Mobility Command Chaplain's office and the base chapel's Protestant community.

Two couples with military backgrounds, from Campus Crusade for Christ Inc., led participants in a faith-based outline to strengthen oneness in their marriages.

Threats to marriage, resolving conflicts, roles and responsibilities, sexual intimacy, and God's purpose and design for oneness were covered. Visual aids and application projects involved couples in personally tackling issues facing marriage.

One couple said, "This seminar helped bring us closer and realize our differences."

Another participant said, "I would absolutely encourage and recommend this for all of my friends who are married."

Other statements included, "This seminar was more

than I could imagine," and, "It gave us a plan and direction for our marriage."

The seminar was multi-faceted to ease the burden on family life for attendees. Educational groups were provided for 6- to 12-year-olds at the Community Activities Center. Supervised care and activities were provided for children ranging from 6 months to 5 years of age at the Child Development Center.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Brooks, 319th Air Refueling Wing head chaplain, said, "The seminar was a huge success due to the dedicated, hard work of a chapel volunteer committee led by Joe Chine (husband of Col. Barbara Chine, 319th Mission Support Group Commander) and advised by Chaplain (Maj.) Michael Moore (319th ARW Senior Protestant and Medical Group Chaplain)."

Mr. Chine said, "I am extremely thankful for the cooperation of the Community Activities Center and Child Development Center, as well as the support we received from local businesses and churches. The seminar was only the starting point for strengthening and protecting marriages."

The chapel Protestant community invites all married couples in the base community to attend HomeBuilders Bible Study groups, which are now forming to continue study and discussion of faith-based principles for strengthening marriages. Groups will be starting in two weeks.

For details, call Mr. Chine, HomeBuilder coordinator, at 594-2288.



Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara

Eighty participants attended the Christian Military Marriage Seminar May 16 and 17 at the Prairie Rose Chapel . The seminar was sponsored by the Air Mobility Command Chaplain's office and the base chapel's Protestant community.

News

319th ARW tanker refuels historic Fargo F-16 flight

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Public affairs

Tagged with the flight name “Raid 31,” the KC-135R Stratotanker aircrew of Lt. Col. Patrick McCormack, aircraft commander, 1st Lts. Brian Ewasko and Thomas Hutton, co-pilots, and boom operators Master Sgt. Patrick D’Augustino and Staff Sgt. James Andrews, didn’t know at the time of their flight May 13 to refuel F-16s from the North Dakota Air National Guard’s 119th Fighter Wing was actually history in the making.

During the flight, the 119th Fighter Wing, home of the Happy Hooligans, became the only Air National Guard F-16 unit to ever fly 60,000 hours without an accident, said Master Sgt. Dave Somdahl of the 119th FW public affairs office. “That covers more than 13 years and some 38,729 sorties (one flight by one aircraft), in all kinds of weather.”

Sgt. Somdahl said this timeframe includes the armed, alert response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and thousands of hours worth of Combat Air Patrol flight hours since that time. It also includes thousands of hours of counter-drug fighter operations as a part of Operation Coronet Nighthawk from 1991 to 1999, operating from Howard Air Base, Republic of Panama, and Hato International Airport, Curacao, 1999-2001, local area familiarization flights, flights for North Dakota Governors John Hoeven, Ed Schafer and George Sinner, a flight for Congressman Earl Pomeroy, cross-country flights, and tens of thousands of training sorties.

Sgt. Somdahl said the milestone is “particularly sweet” for his unit because in addition to having 60,000 accident-free hours in the F-16, the 119th has nearly 53,000 hours of accident-free flight operations with the F-4D Phantom II (1990 back through 1977) and another four years of accident free flying with the F-101B Voodoo (1977 back to 1973).

“We do darn well in fighter aircraft – more than 30 years since our last accident that took place on March 15, 1973,” Sgt. Somdahl said. That’s 132,000-plus hours

of accident-free fighter aircraft time.”

For the 319th Air Refueling Wing, this wasn’t the first time they’ve shared historic situations with their ANG counterparts from Fargo. In a 2002 flight where the 119th flew Governor Hoeven, a KC-135 from the 319th ARW refueled the F-16 carrying the governor. In 2001, the 319th refueled a Fargo F-16 carrying the New York state emergency management director from Montana to New York City within hours after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“It’s an honor to participate in an event such as this,” said Sgt. Andrews, the boom operator who refueled the F-16s. “I’m proud that the 119th Fighter Wing was the unit to achieve this milestone for the F-16. It exemplifies the commitment and professionalism that North Dakota units are known for.”

Sgt. Andrews said the 119th FW is also crucial to the success of mission qualifications for 319th ARW boom operators.

“A 319th ARW boom operator’s first exposure to an Air Force fighter aircraft is usually a Fargo F-16,” Sgt. Andrews said. “Having a unit like the 119th so close in proximity to Grand Forks and so willing to accommodate our training requirements vastly improves our mission readiness.”

The pilot for “Raid 31,” Col. McCormack, said it was great to be able to “force extend” the 119th’s historic flight.

“Achieving that level of flying safety is something to marvel at considering the inherent danger in flying such a complex and challenging aircraft,” Col. McCormack said.

The lieutenant colonel added that mutual training support between the 319th and the 119th is critical to maintaining both units’ ability to achieve their wartime readiness.

“We at Grand Forks know we can count on the 119th to come through when we need to accomplish our training,” Col. McCormack said. “They also know we will be there to keep them proficient in air refueling. I’m sure it was not just by chance that a Grand Forks tanker refueled them during their historic mission.”

Briefs

Courts-martial

► On Mar. 13, Airman 1st Class Derrie K. Hale, 319th Operational Support Squadron, was convicted at special court-martial of one specification of dereliction of duty (possessing a firearm, 9-millimeter pistol, and a knife with a blade exceeding three inches in length in the base dormitories) in violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice; and one specification of aggravated assault (brandishing a dangerous weapon, the loaded 9-millimeter handgun, at another airman) in violation of Article 128, UCMJ.

He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, five months confinement, and a reduction to airman basic.

► On April 29, Airman Robert A. Dumas, 905th Air Refueling Squadron,

was convicted at Summary Court-Martial of one specification of drunk driving in violation of Article 111, UCMJ; one specification of underage drinking in violation of Article 92, UCMJ; one specification of wrongfully using someone else's identification card with the intent to deceive in violation of Article 134, UCMJ; and one specification of making a false official statement with the intent to deceive in violation of Article 107, UCMJ.

He was sentenced to a reduction to Airman Basic and seven days confinement.

► On May 15, Airman Basic Charles R. Ellis, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was convicted at Special

Court-Martial of one specification of communicating a threat in violation of Article 134, UCMJ.

He was sentenced to a bad conduct discharge, two months confinement, and forfeitures of \$575 pay per month for two months.

OPSEC tip

There are many countries and organizations that would like to take a big bite out of American interests. It's possible and not unprecedented for spouses and family members of U.S. military personnel to be targeted for intelligence collections. Even here in America!

For details on Operational Security, call 1st Lt. Carrie Kilareski at 747-4505.

Operation Enduring Friendship

The base will hold an Operation Enduring Friendship unveiling ceremony at the three-bay hangar, Wednesday at 10 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend this event, which will positively affect the quality of life of all base warriors and their families. Free hot dogs, chips, cake and refreshments will be available.



Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara

The end is near

Patrick Cute, left, watches David Franklin, center, sign Emily Younker’s year book at Twining School Friday. With school letting out May 28 and the 101 Critical Days of summer starting Monday, drivers on base will need to be on the look out for pedestrian traffic.

CMSAF sends Memorial Day message

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The following is a Memorial Day message from Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald R. Murray::

“America remembers. We remember the names and faces of fallen heroes of past and current wars, and we honor them by setting aside a day to memorialize their sacrifice. This sacred tradition binds us together as a nation that lives in freedom today because of those who died in battle yesterday.

“This Memorial Day, many Americans will visit the graves of loved ones who died for their country – a father, husband, son, brother, mother, daughter, sister, wife. The flowers they bring and the thoughts they think will bring back joyful memories, and the pain of loss.

“Others will attend Memorial Day services not because they lost a loved one, but in gratitude for the freedom

they enjoy because of the heroes willing to fight and die to preserve it.

“As airmen in the U.S. Air Force, take time this Memorial Day to remember your recently fallen brethren who laid down their lives in the Global War on Terrorism and in Operation Iraqi Freedom:

- Maj. William Watkinss
- Maj. Kevin Stonee
- Capt. Eric Das
- Tech. Sgt. John Chapmann
- Staff Sgt. Scott Satherr
- Staff Sgt. Patrick Griffinn
- Staff Sgt. Jacob Frazierr
- Senior Airman Jason

Cunningham

— Airman 1st Class Raymond Losanoo

“You carry the torch these brave Americans lit. Continue to carry it proudly. As a nation, and as comrades in arms, it’s important that we remember.”

Feng shui: Bring balance to your life

By Staff Sgt. Jeff Taylor
319th Military Equal Opportunity Office

I asked myself several questions while looking for a topic to write on for Asian/Pacific Islander month. During my research I came across a topic called feng shui, pronounced *fong shway*, which means “wind and water.” Now what does feng shui have to do with the the military?

Feng shui is a Chinese philosophy about the relationship between people and their environment; how everything is connected and affects your well-being.

People are a products of their environment. We are all unique with different parents, friends, education, religion and we live in diverse environments; yet we are all simply different combinations of the same energies - the same five elements (metal, water, wood, fire and earth).

A feng shui expert, known as a geomancer, should be consulted to determine what aspects of your house are out of balance. The geomancer will look at an individual’s Chinese horoscope to figure out what is best for that person and use complicated mathematical calculations from the ancient *I Ching*, (*Book of Changes*).

After everything is reviewed, the location, construction and architectural features of buildings, the placement and style of furniture, colors and decorating schemes, and the location of plantings, paths, and other outside features can be determined. This creates a pleasing atmosphere and has improved family communication. These principles can be applied to any style of building or decorating, not just to Chinese or Asian.

David Johnson gives the following basic tips to follow to keep your house in better balance:

➔ Energy, qi, pronounced “*chee*,” should flow freely through your home, entering through the front door and exiting out the back. Clutter, sharp angles, nooks and crannies, and storage areas can slow down energy, causing it to stagnate and become unhealthy.

➔ Energy should not disappear so quickly it has no time to do any good, so if your front door has an unimpeded view to the back door, consider blocking it with screens.

➔ Busy streets, train tracks and airplane flight paths all generate energy that may move too fast to enter your home. A

wall, trees, shrubbery and hanging plants are often used to slow down or to screen out fast-moving or negative energy.

➔ Intersections create lots of qi. If your front door is not well situated, it could become bombarded with energy, making relaxation impossible. A mirror on the front of the house can deflect energy.

➔ Balance is a cornerstone of happiness and good design. Everything from exterior lamp poles to inside decorations might need balancing to generate harmonious energy.

➔ Sharp, jutting angles need to be softened by placing plants or statues in front.

➔ Furniture in the living room should facilitate movement and conversation. Since the living room is a yang (masculine and hot energy) area, consider adding yin (feminine and passive energy) influences with plants, soft cushions, and perhaps a fish tank.

➔ The foot of a bed should not be in a direct line to the door since in ancient China the dead were laid with their feet toward the door of the death house for easier access to heaven.

➔ Round dining room tables are best since the circle symbolized heavenly blessings. Dining room chairs should be of an even number and should be comfortable. Décor should be simple so as not to distract from the food.

➔ Food represents wealth to the Chinese, and therefore the kitchens can generate general happiness. Kitchens should be balanced because of the presence of two major elements—fire, with its yang energy, and water, which is a yin force.

➔ The bathroom is the most yin room in the house because of the presence of water. Yang elements, such as bright colors or candles may be added.

➔ Gardens create a pleasant view. They should contain balance and have a natural look. Flowering plants will bring good luck.

As you can see, you have used some of these tips for years. A question to ask yourself is, “are these the things helping me feel more energized, happier, or less stressful?” Even if you don’t believe in the feng shui philosophy, by applying just a few of these tips this may provide just enough change in your household to relieve some of the stress associated in your life. This is just one example of how we have incorporated Asian/Pacific Islander’s cultures into our lives.

Disaster on the frozen tundra

Just over 20 years ago, an on-ground B-52 explosion on base resulted in the deaths of five maintenance airmen

By Senior Airman Joshua G. Moshier
Public affairs

Memorial Day is a typically somber national holiday. It is a time to reflect on the dearly departed – to honor their lives, contributions and effects they had on those around them. Ceremonies are held, services conducted, and tokens of love and appreciation placed on their gravesites.

As members of the United States Air Force, all airmen take a voluntary oath with the knowledge and desire that they may potentially be put in harm's way to ensure all Americans' way of life. Many of this country's volunteer soldiers, seamen, Marines and airmen have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty while upholding this oath. Just about every post, port and base, Grand Forks included, has had to deal with the heartache of loss of life at some point in its history.

On Jan. 27, 1983, at approximately 9:30 a.m., an on-ground B-52 explosion here cost the lives of five maintenance airmen working on the aircraft and injured eight more. It was, and remains, the most tragic accident in the history of the base in terms of loss of life, according to Master Sgt. Betty Hartman, 319th Air Refueling Wing, historian.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Leal, an air traffic controller on duty at the time of the explosion, said in a news conference that day that the explosion was so powerful,

he "felt the tower tremble."

Those killed in the explosion were Senior Airman Robert W. Gray, 23, 319th Organizational Maintenance Squadron, assistant crew chief; Senior Airman Scott A. Wicik, 24, 319th Field Maintenance Squadron, aircraft fuel systems mechanic; Airman 1st Class Michael F. McDonald, 319th OMS, system crew chief; Airman 1st Class Robin Rise, 20, 319th FMS, aircraft fuel systems mechanic; and Airman 1st Class Anthony M. Salva, 21, 319th Avionics Maintenance Squadron, avionics instruments systems specialist.

Of the eight injured, three were treated and released. They were Lt. Col. Robert Fowler, 38, deputy bomb wing inspector; Airman 1st Class Terry G. Smith, 19, 319th OMS; and Airman David W. Colmus, 19, firefighter.

Tech. Sgt. Phillip W. Johnston, 35, firefighter; Staff Sgt. Charles D. Tinkle, 27, avionics specialist; Airman 1st Class Levon Barney Jr., 23, supply specialist; Airman 1st Class John T. Beal, 20, firefighter; and Airman 1st Class Steven P. Stokke, 20, firefighter, were all held for overnight observations and released the following day.

The events of that day just over 20 years ago left most stationed at the base at that time with heavy hearts. The resulting emotions of all were summed up well by Col. John S. Fairfield, 319th Bombardment Wing commander at the time of the accident.

"We experienced a tragedy on this base as five members of this wing lost their lives in a B-52 fire yesterday while performing their duties to repair that aircraft," Col. Fairfield said on Jan. 28, 1983. "But, where do we go from here? Each moment, we will be aware of that aircraft on the ramp, and our hearts will be heavy with the loss of our friends."

Col. Frank B. Horton, 321st Strategic Missile Wing and installation commander at the time of the incident, also voiced his sorrow at the time.

"We're all very much affected in a profound and human way," Col. Horton said. "You've got to keep your wits about you – that's what we're trained to do. But, when it's all over, you look – and suddenly, you feel the impact."

The irony today is, the five airmen

that died in the explosion would be retired, or near retirement, had the accident never happened. However, those lives lost were not forgotten.

A memorial service was held Jan. 31, 1983, in a base hangar for the airmen who lost their lives. Over 1,500 people from the base and surrounding communities attended, paying tribute to the deceased. The North Dakota State Legislative Assembly sent a copy of Senate Concurrent Memorial Resolution No. 1 to Col. Fairfield. The resolution paid special tribute "to the four men and one woman who sacrificed their lives to help keep the country free."

Twenty Memorial Day holidays have come and gone since that tragedy, and Monday will mark the twenty-first.



File photo

A view from the inside of the burned-out frame of the B-52 that exploded on base on Jan. 27, 1983



A Family Remembers: Every holiday is a Memorial Day

Something Is Missing in My Life

To the casual observer, my life is idyllic. I have a wonderful husband, two precious daughters, a suburban home, and am doing work that I enjoy. Yes, I am living the American Dream.

Something is missing in my life.

I drive a minivan, volunteer for my children's schools, bake cookies for them after school. I have a dog I like taking for a walk. I have neighbors and friends to socialize with.

Something is missing in my life.

The something that is painfully absent in my life is my older brother. He was killed in Viet Nam when I was too young to remember him. He lives in my life only through pictures and memories that my mother and other siblings give to me. It hurts me that he was never able to see his baby sister grow up to adulthood and be an uncle to my children. I know that my girls and I are missing out on a wonderful person. I understand that politics and war are a part of our American life. It intensely wounds me that I have so much only because we have lost so much.

*I love and miss you, Denny.
Your Baby Sister, Karen*

This poem was written by Karen Peirson-Fautsch, Denny's youngest sister. It is used by permission.

By Shelly Troff
Contributing Writer

It's been almost four decades since Army Pfc. Dennis "Denny" L. Pierson was killed in Vietnam, but it's still a painful, tragic memory for his family.

For his mother, five siblings, and the many nieces and nephews that recount stories about Pierson at every holiday gathering, there remains incredible pride and immense love for a young, fallen soldier from suburban Minnesota.

Staff Sgt. Richelle Aumiller, Pierson's niece who is stationed at Grand Forks Air Force Base, willingly shared a detailed collection of his legacy provided through old newspaper clippings, his frank letters home to his parents, letters of interest from the Army, and even a poignant poem written by Pierson's youngest sister, Karen.

"Our family is very close, and we gather for every holiday," said Aumiller, "I don't remember one holiday where we haven't talked about him, how much he loved children."

Pierson, who died before Aumiller was born, left behind a rich living history shared to this day by his mother and five siblings Judy, Darrell, Rollin, Randy and Karen.

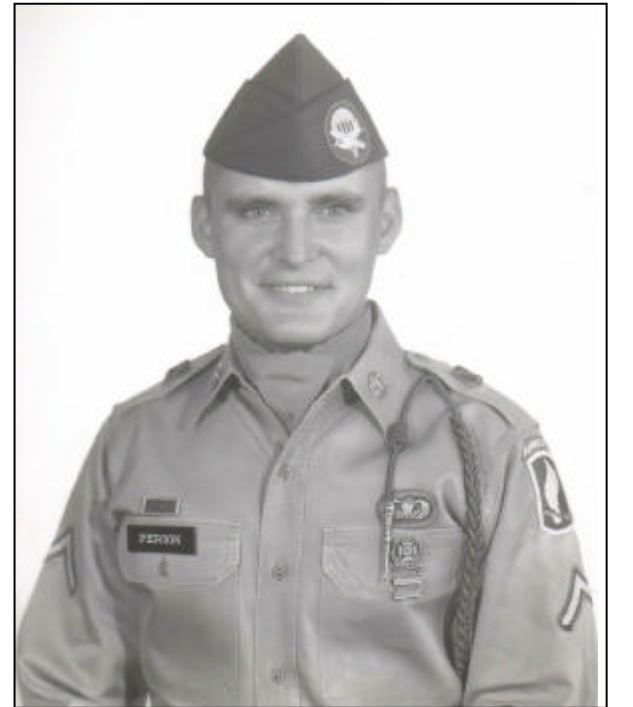
Almost Home

The local newspaper that detailed Piersons' June 26, 1965 death wrote, respectfully, a fascinating story about a different war hero serving in very different times. Pierson, through his physical strength and test scores, qualified for Army Ranger leadership training and Vietnamese language work. A 5-foot, 6-inch powerhouse, he had the "stuff" that heroes of his day were made of.

Pierson enlisted in the United States Army in July of 1962, and was stationed in Okinawa for a few years before being sent to Vietnam, where he served as a Vietnamese interpreter for the First Battalion of The Royal Australian Regiment. An advance radio man who often parachuted into hostile territory, he once took repeated gunfire from the Communists while his parachute drifted toward the ground, jumping from his harness before it hit the ground.

"It's a good thing they're poor shots," Pierson wrote home.

Just days before his death, his jeep crossed over a land mine, destroying the vehicle completely. Pierson escaped unharmed. Borne out of true grit



Courtesy photo

Army Pfc. Dennis "Denny" L. Pierson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal for .

and harrowing moments from constant combat, Pierson's unwavering diligence provided daily assault against the Viet Cong.

Then, just four days before taking his first scheduled leave in three months—a trip back to Okinawa— the unthinkable happened. While unloading a supply truck at the end of a day's patrol mission, someone accidentally exploded a hand grenade, wounding 15 soldiers and killing 3—two from Australia, and Pierson.

Perhaps to those who read the original 1965 newspaper article on Pierson's death titled, "Four Days Left In Viet Nam," this was just an unfortunate case of bad luck, or just another faceless death from what many viewed a misguided war.

But to the Pierson family, it was heartbreaking.

Now almost 40 years later, Memorial Day brings it all back home.

For the Pierson family, their "Denny," a young GI who began his letters home by cheerfully asking, "And how is everyone today?" is gone forever, but his spirit and memory still stays very close to home. For his fatal wounds, Pierson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Daily Mass: Tuesday through Friday 11:30 a.m. Sunflower Chapel.

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

CCD: 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary School, RCIA plus Confirmation.

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

JEWISH:

For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540.

PROTESTANT:

Traditional worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Liturgical worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.

Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.

Young Adults: 6 p.m. Friday, Chaplain Swain’s home, 747-4359.

Youth: 4 p.m. Sunday, held at youth center.

Religious Education: 9 a.m. Sunday, Eielson Elementary School.

Men of the Chapel: noon Monday, Prairie Rose conference room.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details call 747-5673.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

Head of State (PG-13)

Chris Rock makes his directorial debut (he also co-wrote the screenplay) and stars as Mays Gilliam, a local Washington, D.C., alderman who's picked by the Democratic party to run for president when their candidate dies unexpectedly during the campaign. As Mays warms to the idea, he chooses his clueless brother (Bernie Mac) to be his running mate, while his ex-girlfriend (Robin Givens) wants him back, with eyes on becoming the first lady.

May 24, 3 p.m.

The Italian Job (PG-13)

In this remake, Mark Wahlberg will play Charlie Croker, a career criminal who heads a crew that mas-terminds a massive gold bullion heist. It is made possible when they create the largest traffic jam in Los Angeles history. While the traffic disables the populace (and the cops), the criminals are empowered by their use of Mini Coopers, which are incredibly fast cars but also small enough to travel on sidewalks and the subway system while the city and the cops are immobilized.

***The base theater is offering free admis-**

sion to this film, which is being pre-screened on base. The release date for Grand Forks theaters is May 30. Admission will be first-come, first-served.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Basic (R)

The latest assignment of a DEA agent (John Travolta) is to investigate the bizarre disappearance of an Army drill instructor (Samuel L. Jackson) and several of his elite commandos during what was to be a routine training exercise. The agent finds trouble around every turn and is at odds with the Army's own investigating officer (Connie Nielsen).

Sunday, 3 p.m.

The Italian Job (PG-13)

***The base theater is offering free admission to this film on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

Community

Today

LIBERTY SQUARE CLOSURE: Liberty Square is closed through May 28 due to parking lot renovations. During this time the Youth Center will be open on Fridays from 6 to 10 pm. Any questions contact the Youth Center 747-3150.

TEENSUPREME MEETING: Every Friday for ages 14 - 18 from 9 to 10 p.m. at the Youth Center, temporarily. Question contact the Youth Center 747-3150.

SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS: Letters of intend for the "All-Night" Softball Tournament May 31, need to be in today at the Sports and Fitness Center.

Saturday

YOUTH BASKETBALL: There is a "3 on 3" Basketball Challenge tonight for ages 9 - 12 at 6 p.m. and ages 13 - 18 at 8 p.m. at the Youth Center. Pick your own teams of three!

KARAOKE AT THE CLUB: Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. for Karaoke!

DANCING AT THE CLUB: Come out to the Club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and dance to 'Club Mix' music with DJ "C".

YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING: Saturdays at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 - 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 - 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2.50/hour and .75 for shoe rental. Need 10 to hold; must sign up at the Youth Center to attend.

Sunday

GRADS EAT FREE AT SUNDAY BRUNCH: The Club is having their last Super Sunday Brunch of the season on today from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy 2 meats, biscuits & gravy, eggs, fruit, waffles, omelets and more! Graduates will enjoy their meal free with paid adult!

Monday

YOUTH CENTER CLOSES: The Youth Center will be closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday

TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS: Come by the Youth Center to participate in Tournament Tuesdays! This activity is for ages 9 - 12 at 5:30 pm and 13 - 18 at 7 p.m. every Tuesday! The Tournament for today is “Pool.”

Wednesday

SPOUSES’ DISCOUNT: The Northern Lights Club is having their special “Spouses of the Deployed Discount” tonight from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Spouses of the deployed will receive 20 percent off their evening meal! Due to the change to “Summer Hours of Operation,” the spouses discount dinner will on Fridays. The next will be June 27.

Thursday

MALL OF AMERICA: Sign up by today for the May 31 trip to Mall of America. The bus departs Outdoor Recreation at 5 a.m. and returns around midnight. The transportation cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Sign up by today at outdoor recreation, 747-3688.

TEEN STUDY GROUP: Meets every Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Youth Center for ages 13 to 18.

Upcoming

END OF SCHOOL YEAR PICNIC: The Youth Center's annual “End of School Year” family picnic and carnival is May 30 at Liberty Square. This year's theme is “Hawaiian Fun in the Sun!” There is a free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and several events for the kids are being offered. FREE and open to the base! Call the Youth Center for a complete list of events being offered at 747-3150.

ALL-NIGHT SOFTBALL: Don't miss out on this year's annual All-Night Softball Tournament May 30. A minimum of two females must be on the field for each team, and each player will start with a one and one count. Register to win a summer get-a-way to the Badland Trail Rides and Eastview Campground, drawn at 11:30 p.m. Must be present to win. Prize includes a one-night stay and two-hour trail rides for up to four people.

Community

Upcoming

BOATER SAFETY: There is a Boater Safety Class at Outdoor Recreation on June 3 and 17 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Required if you plan to rent motorized watercraft from Outdoor Recreation. Also, North Dakota law requires persons 12 to 15 to pass an approved boating course if they operate motorboats propelled by motors over 10 horsepower (includes personal watercraft).

Additionally, many insurance companies offer a premium discount to adults who complete this course. The course is free. Sign up at outdoor recreation, 747-3688.

KIDS FISHING DERBY: The annual Kids Fishing Derby is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 7 at Larimore Dam. The cost is \$1 per child, and prizes will be awarded.

Registration begins at 9 a.m.; tournament starts at 10 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Awards ceremony commences shortly after fishing ends. Grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided for all participants. Age groups are: 3 to 5, 6 to 8, 9 to 13 and 14 to 15; prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places for heaviest stringer in each age group, and 1st place for largest northern pike, largest bass, and largest pan fish. Each participant is allowed to weigh one fish per hour. Pre-registration is encouraged but not necessary. Sign up at Outdoor Recreation. Lots of volunteers still needed and will meet at Outdoor Recreation on June 4 at 5 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY SCHOLARSHIPS: To encourage talented Club members to hone their skills and pursue photography as a career, Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Circuit City Foundation are offering the ImageMakers Photography Scholarships for Club members ages 16 to 18. To apply, members must compile five photographs, in any medium or mixture of media, showcasing their talent. Photographs should be displayed in a portfolio along with a typed one-page personal statement on any subject written by the photographer.

Applications can be picked up at the Youth Center. Portfolio, personal statement and application must be submitted to the Youth Center by June 9. All Club members who submit portfolios will receive certificates of merit; the top four portfolio photographers will each receive \$3,000 to be used for college or art school.

VALLEY FAIR: Sign up by June 11 for the June 14 trip to Valley Fair. The bus departs outdoor recreation at 5 a.m. and returns around midnight. The cost is \$40 and includes transportation and admission to the park. Sign up at outdoor recreation, 747-3688.

GIVE PARENTS A BREAK: Sign up by June 10 for the next “Give Parents a Break” date set for June 14. Give Parents a Break provides eligible parents a few hours break from the stress of parenting. The Air Force Aid Society provides funding, making it possible for the Child Development Center to open and pro-

vide care for this special program.

To take advantage of this program, families must be referred by one of the following base officials: Squadron Commander or First Sergeant, Chaplain, Doctor or medical professional, Family Advocacy personnel, Family Support Center personnel or Child Development Center personnel. Referred parents must make reservations the Tuesday prior. For details call the Child Development Center at 747-3042.

SKILLS CENTER NOTES:

☐ The Skills Development Center's summer hours are now in effect: Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., closed Sundays, holidays, weekends and goal days.

☐ There will be no classes offered for the month of June.

☐ Have a large or special project to work on? Spouses groups may have free use of our classroom during regular operating hours. Call 747-3482 to make a reservation.

CDC CHILD CARE OPENINGS: If you need childcare for your 3 to 5 year old, contact the Child Development Center. Several openings for this age group are available. Care is offered Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For additional information call the Child Development Center, 747-3042.

FAST EDDIE'S: Come try our new Smoothies in 5 delicious flavors:

Tropical Fruit, Raspberry, Strawberry, Peach and Banana. Call us at 747-6201 for details.

ESC PICNIC AND OFFICER INDUCTION: The enlisted spouses club holds its annual picnic and new officer induction Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the new pavilion across from the auto skills center. People attending are encouraged to bring something to put on the grill and to bring a side dish. Everyone is invited.

Call Mary Bucher at 594-8770/747-3315; Bobbi Sturkol at 594-3855; or Jill Holwerda at 594-6572 for more details

2003 EOSY PICNIC, CARNIVAL: School is out, and to end the year, the youth center will have its annual picnic and carnival May 30.

This year's theme is “Hawaiian Fun in the Sun.”

The day's events will begin with a free lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The “America's Kids Run” will be 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 5 to 13. The afternoon will end with a staff “pie-in-the-face” event at 3:45 p.m.

MALL OF AMERICA TRIP: Register by May 29 for outdoor recreation's trip to the Mall of America on May 31.

Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12-years-old and younger who are accompanied by an adult. Transportation departs at 5 a.m. from outdoor recreation and returns around midnight.

For details call 747-3688.

Enjoying the great outdoors



Photos by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara

(Top right) A father helps his young son cast his fishing line into the Turtle River during Saturday's Military Appreciation Day at the Turtle River State Park.

(Right) Dr. Earl Beal and Mr. Rick Tonder race for the finish line during Saturday's 5K run at the park. Mr. Tonder won the event with a time of 19:38, and Dr. Beal came in a close second at 19:39.

(Above) The field for the 5K race takes off.



MSS wins over CS with a bull's-eye!

By Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara
Public affairs

With a replay of what seemed to match and surpass the excitement of last week's volleyball championship, the 2003 darts intramural championship played host to two very skilled teams, the communications squadron and the mission support squadron "B" team. The match was held at the Northern Lights club, May 16, where MSS beat out CS 7 to 4, after playing three hours of competitive darts.

The MSS team ended the intramural darts league with a 1st place ranking and started out with a win against the security forces squadron in the first round of the playoffs. Little did they know that a formidable CS team would soon dethrone the winning streak MSS had throughout the season, in the second round of the playoffs. From here on, it seemed like MSS had an uphill battle ahead of them in the loser's bracket, while their victors could only wait to see who they would play for the championship.

"It felt good to walk away with that win, but we also knew we were going to have a very good battle in the end," said William Klatt, CS team.

After defeating the logistics readiness squadron, in the third round of the playoffs, MSS prepared to face CS for a spot in the championship match.

"We knew we had to play the best

darts that we know, since COMM has an incredible team," said David Cislo, MSS team.

Two hours into the game and two pitchers of water later, MSS pulled out with a win against CS from the loser's bracket to get a chance to play in the championship match. With tensions running high, from both sides, the final game was "where it really counts," said Brian Brantley, MSS team.

The championship match involved a combination of '301' and 'cricket' dart games. The first team to reach seven victories would claim the trophy. Throughout the match, CS seemed like they had a strong hold of the event, but MSS turned around with a 5 to 4 lead after the fourth game. After three hours, it came down to a final game of cricket between CS's Roy Jensen and Anthony Everhart against MSS's Brantley and Cislo. With a 6 to 4 lead, MSS needed a double bull's-eye to win, and CS needed a double bull's-eye to stay in the running. As Everhart approached the 'oche' (the throwing line), nerves steady and mind focused, he threw, only to land just short of the bull's-eye. Brantley then approached the line, only to miss his first throw, but out of nowhere, he threw and hit the double bull's-eye to seal the match 7 to 4, thus claiming MSS as the 2003 intramural darts champions.

"It was a struggle," said Cislo, "so we feel very fortunate to come out with a win,"



Photo by Senior Airman Jathzed Fabara

(Left to right) David Cislo, Ron Gallucci, Keith Hollis and Brian Brantley of the 319th Mission Support Squadron 'B' team show off their trophy and the final score from the base intramural steel-tip dart championship May 16. The squad worked their way back from the loser's bracket to beat the 319th Communications Squadron for the base crown.

Shorts

All-night softball tournament

the All-Night Softball Tournament is May 30. Teams need to sign up by today at the fitness center for. Teams must start and finish with nine players with a minimum of two females on the field for each team. Each player starts with a one and one count. For details call the fitness center at 747-3384

Outdoor recreation

Outdoor recreation has the new season's fishing licenses, certificates, individual fishing stamps, sportsmen's, and husband and wife fishing stamps.

June 4 - Deer gun and muzzleloader application deadline

June 7 - 8 - ND "free fishing" weekend

Evening Fishing Trips: Outdoor Recreation will begin leading evening fishing trips to Devil's Lake in April for ice-out walleyes and northern pike. Be on the

lookout for notices about these upcoming trips.

Spring Bird-watching trips: The spring migration and breeding season begins this month and there are a number of places locally that draw a variety of interesting birds. At ODR we have binoculars and bird books that will get you started enjoying the birding season. We'll also be offering some evening and early morning birding trips as migrants arrive.

Camper and Boat Reservations: You can reserve a boat or camper the first day of the month prior to the month you need the equipment. Boat and camper reservation deposit fees are \$20 for weekend and \$40 for a week or longer. Deposits are non-refundable.

Saturday morning volleyball

Through the summer the base volleyball team will be holding Saturday Morning Scrimmages, open to anyone. These games, held from 9 to 11 a.m. every

Saturday at the fitness center, will be an opportunity for you to tune up your skills or keep them in shape, in a fun but competitive atmosphere. All are welcome, even if you haven't worked out with the team before. For details call Capt. Matt Duston at 747-5714.

Dakota Lanes

Unlimited Bowling: Sunday from 6 to 9 pm. \$5 per person unlimited bowling, first come first serve.

75 cent Bowling: Mon-Wed-Fri from 11am to 1 pm, 75 cents a game.

Saturday Galaxy Bowling: Galaxy Bowl starting at 8 pm! Register to win the next Saturday Galaxy Bowling free for you and one other person. Must be used the following Saturday night. Cannot be carried over to any other Saturday night.

Family Bowling: Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$1 per person per game. Limit three games.